



# FIELD CROPS

## Prospective Plantings for 2012

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

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### FLORIDA

**Forecast Planted Acres:** As of March 1, farmers anticipated planting more corn, hay, peanuts, and winter wheat and less cotton. Producers of corn and soybeans were watching the market before committing to planted acreage for these crops. Meanwhile, corn is forecasted to increase by 5,000 acres to total 70,000 acres in 2012. Soybeans acreage is projected to remain the same. Cotton is projected to decrease by 10 percent to 110 acres. Producers intend to bale 300,000 acres of hay, an increase of 15 percent from the previous year. Potentially, this year's hay acreage will increase since last year's acreage was low due to drought. Peanut growers expect to plant 190,000 acres, an increase of 20,000 acres from the previous year. Winter wheat is expected to almost double from 12,000 acres to currently 23,000 acres. This year, warm weather has been favorable to wheat. Sweet potato acreage increased slightly to total 3,400 acres.

**Weather:** Overall, an unusual mild winter and extreme drought conditions were present in the north. Towards the beginning of March, as farmers prepared fields for spring planting, occasional rains delayed planting but planting remained on schedule. As the month continued, low soil moisture slowed preparations for planting of peanuts. However, some corn crops were already in the ground. At the end of March, 60 percent of the topsoil and subsoil ratings were short or very short.

### Prospective Plantings for 2012 with Comparisons

Crops	Florida				United States			
	2010	2011	Indicated 2012 <sup>1</sup>	2012 as % of 2011	2010	2011	Indicated 2012 <sup>1</sup>	2012 as % of 2011
	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(1,000 acres)	(percent)
Corn .....	60.0	65.0	70.0	108	88,192.0	91,921.0	95,864.0	104
Cotton, Upland.....	92.0	122.0	110.0	90	10,777.0	14,426.0	12,885.0	89
All Hay, Harvested .....	320.0	260.0	300.0	115	59,872.0	55,633.0	57,348.0	103
Peanuts .....	145.0	170.0	190.0	112	1,288.0	1,140.6	1,422.0	125
Soybeans .....	25.0	18.0	18.0	100	77,404.0	74,976.0	73,902.0	99
Sweet potatoes .....	3.5	3.3	3.4	103	119.8	134.2	133.4	99
Winter Wheat .....	12.0	12.0	23.0	192	37,335.0	40,646.0	41,709.0	103

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings or harvested acres in 2012 as indicated by reports from farmers.

## UNITED STATES

**Corn:** Growers intend to plant 95.9 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2012, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent higher than in 2010. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 1937 when an estimated 97.2 million acres were planted. Planted acreage is expected to be up in most States compared to last year due to expectations of better net returns in 2012 compared to other commodities. Record corn acreage is expected in Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, while acreage is expected to decrease in the central and southern Great Plains which experienced severe drought and above normal temperatures in 2011.

**All Cotton:** Growers intend to plant 13.2 million acres in 2012, down 11 percent from last year. Upland acreage is expected to total 12.9 million acres, down 11 percent from 2011. American Pima acreage is expected to total 270,000 acres, down 12 percent from 2011. Lower cotton prices and strong competition from other crops are the main factors for the decrease in cotton acreage. Field preparation is taking place in the southeast while planting is underway in southern Texas and Arizona. As of March 25, cotton planting in Texas was 9 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 4 points ahead of the 5-year average. Heavy precipitation in the Delta Region has delayed fieldwork in some areas and eased the drought in Louisiana. A mild winter in some cotton growing areas has producers bracing for potentially higher than normal insect and weed pressure.

**Hay:** Producers intend to harvest 57.3 million acres of all hay in 2012, up 3 percent from last year's record low. If realized, this will be the second smallest harvested area on record. Producers in several States – Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania – intend to harvest record low acreages. Producers in Illinois expect to harvest a record-tying low acreage.

**Peanuts:** Growers intend to plant 1.42 million acres in 2012, up 25 percent from the previous year. Record high planted area is expected in South Carolina. If realized, planted area in Florida and Mississippi will be the highest since 1951 and 1943, respectively. The expected increase in planted area is largely driven by higher peanut prices and low supply. Last year growers decreased peanut acres in many States due to higher prices of competing commodities. Strong demand left peanuts in short supply, indicating the need to increase production in 2012.

**Soybean:** Growers intend to plant an estimated 73.9 million acres in 2012, down 1 percent from last year and down 5 percent from 2010. Compared with last year, planted acreage intentions are down in many areas as some acreage is expected to shift to corn. Additionally, soybean acreage intentions in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas are down from 2011 due to drought conditions that have continued from last year into early March. If realized, the planted area in New York and North Dakota will be the largest on record and the planted area in Pennsylvania will tie the previous record.

**Sweet Potatoes:** Planted area of sweet potatoes is expected to total 133,400 acres for the 2012 season, down 1 percent from last year. Five of the nine sweet potato producing States intended to plant less acreage in 2012 due to labor concerns and weather conditions. However, growers in North Carolina, California, and Florida are expecting an increase in acres planted.

**All Wheat:** Planted area is estimated at 55.9 million acres, up 3 percent from 2011. The 2012 winter wheat planted area, at 41.7 million acres, is up 3 percent from last year but down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 29.9 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 8.4 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.5 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2012 is estimated at 12.0 million acres, down 3 percent from 2011. Of this total, about 11.3 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. Durum planted area for 2012 is estimated at 2.22 million acres, up 62 percent from the previous year.